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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Security Council the attached communication, dated 14 December 1995, which he has received from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Annex

Letter dated 14 December 1995 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council resolution 699 (1991), approved on 17 June 1991, inter alia, requests, the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council progress reports on the implementation of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of the items specified in paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991). Such reports are to be submitted every six months after the adoption of resolution 699 (1991). The next report is therefore due on 17 December 1995.

As you will recall, in August 1995, IAEA was invited by the Government of Iraq to visit Baghdad for technical talks. During these discussions, IAEA was informed of a crash programme, established by Iraq in the late summer/early fall of 1990, to divert, for use in Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme, the highly enriched uranium contained in research reactor fuel that was subject to IAEA safeguards. In the course of these discussions, a number of documents were handed over to IAEA. At the close of the discussions, Iraqi officials also advised IAEA of a cache of documents, materials and fabricated items relating to Iraq's programme for weapons of mass destruction that had been concealed on property declared to belong to the family of General Hussein Kamel (the Haidar House Farm). This cache of documents, along with those handed over during the technical talks, have been catalogued, and the portion relating to Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme, including almost a million pages of documents, have been transferred to IAEA headquarters in Vienna, where analysis is in progress.

During follow-up inspections, conducted in September and October 1995, the Iraqi Government handed over a number of additional technical documents relating to the former nuclear weapons programme. These documents have also been removed from Iraq and are the subject of urgent detailed evaluation.

Among the latter documents were detailed lists of equipment and materials utilized in the clandestine nuclear programme that had been salvaged during and after the Gulf War and removed to other locations. The lists indicate the presence in Iraq of hitherto undeclared items that could fall in the categories of those proscribed to Iraq under resolution 687 (1991). IAEA is in the process of locating, identifying and analysing the characteristics of such items. This process may result in the need to destroy, remove or render harmless part of the items contained in the lists. IAEA will keep the Security Council informed on this matter.

Kindly bring the content of this letter to the attention of the Council.

(Signed) Hans BLIX